

The errors in the reissue declaration are noted. A new declaration will be provided as soon as possible.

The title has been amended in light of the examiner's requirement.

Reconsideration of the objections to the claims is requested in view of the above amendments.

Reconsideration of the rejection of claims under 35 USC 112 is requested in view of the above amendments wherein the examiner's comments have been addressed. It is believed that the claims are now in full compliance with 35 USC 112.

Reconsideration of the rejection of claims 22, 23, 24, 25, 28 and 29 under 35 USC 102 as unpatentable over Raccuglia et al. is respectfully requested. With respect to claim 22, it is noted that Raccuglia et al. do not teach or suggest a "holder" as recited. Raccuglia et al. merely teach a known pivoting support for the container, and that support is not capable of holding the container in a predetermined position. The container of Raccuglia et al. will assume any of an infinite number of positions depending on the state of rotation of the centrifuge rotor, and nothing in Raccuglia et al. is capable of holding the container in a given position. With respect to claims 25 and 28, the device of Raccuglia et al. is not dependent on the orientation of the container. Instead it appears that the container of Raccuglia et al. operates by the opening of a valve so that transfer of fluids is not dependent on the orientation of the container.

Reconsideration of the rejection of claims 25-27 under 35 USC 102 as unpatentable over Li is respectfully requested. Li has nothing to do with medical products and has no suggestion to provide sterile compartments.

Reconsideration of the rejection of claims 25-27, 33 and 36 under 35 USC 102 as unpatentable over McFarland is respectfully requested. McFarland does not relate to a container

wherein the contents of respective chambers are transferred as a function of the orientation of the container. Instead, McFarland relates to a container that forces fluids out of the chamber by air pressure. With regard to claim 33, nothing in McFarland suggests a sterile container with access ports that maintain sterility.

Reconsideration of the rejection of claims 25-27, 33 and 37 under 35 USC 102 as unpatentable over Crippa is respectfully requested. Crippa suggests neither a sterile container nor a sterile container that provides sterile access ports to the chambers.

Reconsideration of the rejection of claims 25-27, 33, 34, 35, and 37 under 35 USC 102 as unpatentable over Onishi is respectfully requested. Onishi is directed to a container for mixing fuel and has no relation to the sterile container set forth in the claims.

The indication of allowable subject matter is noted with appreciation.

It is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance, and an early indication thereof is respectfully requested. The examiner is invited to contact the undersigned if any matter remains outstanding.

All necessary extensions of time are requested. Please charge any necessary fees and credit any excess to deposit account 50-1088.

Respectfully Submitted,
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MARKED UP CLAIMS



22. A system for treating physiological products, comprising:

a centrifuge;

a container having at least a first chamber and a second chamber, wherein each of the first and second chambers [have] has a top portion, a bottom portion and a set of walls, wherein the top portions of the first chamber and second chamber are connected by a bridge for transferring fluid therebetween; and

a holder assembly attached to the centrifuge and effective to removably receive the container, wherein the holder assembly is effective to position the container in one or more predetermined positions.

23. The system of claim 22, wherein the chambers include removable lid portions, thereby forming a closed container.

24. The system of claim 23 wherein at least one of the chambers includes an access port for transference of a liquid.

25. A container comprising:

at least a first sterile chamber having a top portion, a bottom portion and a first set of walls;

a second sterile chamber having a second top portion, a second bottom portion and a second set of walls;

and a bridge connecting the top portion of the first chamber and the top portion of the second chamber, such that a substance can be transferred from the first chamber to the second chamber while the container is positioned at a predetermined angle.

26. The container of claim 25, wherein the chambers include a removable lid portion.

27. The container of claim 26, wherein at least one of the chambers includes an access port for transference of a liquid.

28. A system for treating physiological products and maintaining sterility of said products during said treating comprising:

a container having a plurality of closed, sterile fluid-receiving chambers, a bridge forming a fluid path

allowing fluid communication between a first of said chambers and a second of said chambers when said container is in a predetermined orientation, and at least one access port allowing access to at least one of said chambers to maintain sterility, and

a centrifuge having a holder removably receiving said container and allowing said container to assume a first orientation wherein a physiological product in one of said chambers is subjected to centrifugation and said predetermined orientation wherein fluid in said first of said chambers flows along said fluid path to said second of said chambers.

29. A system according to claim 28 wherein said holder comprises a frame pivotally mounted to a **rotor of said centrifuge** [rotor].

30. A system according to claim 28 further comprising a movable locking plate that is movable between free and locking positions, wherein said plate allows said container to assume said first orientation when in said free position and holds said container in said predetermined position when in said locking position.

31. A system according to claim 30 further comprising an electromagnet for moving said locking plate to one of said locking and free positions.

32. A system according to claim 28 wherein said holder comprises a frame pivotally mounted to a **rotor of said centrifuge** [rotor], and further comprising a movable locking plate that is movable between free and locking positions, wherein said plate engages said frame to allow said container to assume said first orientation when in said free position and to hold said container in said predetermined position when in said locking position

33. A container comprising a base forming a plurality of sterile chambers, each of said chambers having a bottom and a top, a bridge connecting at least two of said chambers and arranged to provide a sterile fluid channel from a first of said at least two sterile chambers to a second of said at least two sterile chambers when said container is in a predetermined orientation, a lid closing said top of each of said plurality of chambers, and access ports that provide access to the chambers while maintaining sterility.

34. A container according to claim 33 wherein said plurality of sterile chambers and said bridge comprise a molded base part.
35. A container according to claim 34 wherein said container is substantially rigid.
36. A container according to claim 33 further comprising a separation disk in one of said chambers.
37. A container according to claim 33 wherein said plurality of chambers comprise first and second adjacent chambers having adjacent sidewalls and said bridge is formed at the tops of said adjacent sidewalls.